

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 296
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Coach Tony Hardin and the Elizabethton High School Boys Basketball Team on their 2002-2003 championship season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Elizabethton High School boys basketball program is renowned for its perennial nature as a bastion of extraordinary athletic facility and its competitive stature in the world of high school sports; and

WHEREAS, the Elizabethton High School Fighting Cyclones achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2002-2003 season, establishing a record of 30-5 and placing 3rd in the TSSAA Class AA State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, by defeating such imposing teams as Volunteer, Sullivan Central, South Greene, Pigeon Forge, Johnson County, and Alcoa, the Fighting Cyclones of Elizabethton High School secured District, Regional, and Sub-State Championship honors; and

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WHEREAS, undefeated in their conference, the team also won the Virginia Highlands Classic Tournament; and

WHEREAS, while supporting the team's vision, several players were awarded accolades for their individual performances, including: Jordan Lambert, who was named the Regional Tournament MVP, and Vince Redd, who, having scored more than 1,000 points and blocked over 250 shots in his career, was named Co-MVP of the District Tournament with teammate B.J. Miller, who has also topped the 1,000-points mark; and

WHEREAS, the Elizabethton High School boys basketball team includes Captain Jordan Lambert, players Lester Bailey, Troop Harris, Ben Hardin, Keith Crawford, B.J. Miller, Dustin Henson, Nathan Coffman, Charles Peters, Chris Vaughn, Jonathan Laing, Bradley Brown, Brad Holsclaw, Derek Wilson, and Vince Redd and Coaches Tony Hardin, Richard VanHuss, Harry McKesson, and Wes Wright, all of whom contributed significantly to the team's success; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Tony Hardin has devoted a remarkable amount of time to the cultivation of the basketball program at Elizabethton High School and laid the groundwork for this extraordinary season by sharing with the young men on the team his substantial knowledge of basketball, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport of basketball and for excellence in every endeavor; he was appropriately named "Coach of the Year" by six different sources just this year; and

WHEREAS, the basketball players at Elizabethton High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the Fighting Cyclones have inspired the student body and united the entire Elizabethton community in completing their triumphal run through the 2002-2003 basketball season; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young people not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Elizabethton Fighting Cyclones for winning their District, Regional, and Sub-State Tournaments and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we do hereby honor and congratulate Coach Tony Hardin and the Elizabethton High School Fighting Cyclones on their formidable legacy, their individual and collective resolve, and their extraordinary championship season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.